

REMARKS

In the present Amendment, Claims 7-9 have been amended to recite that z is a number from 1 to 10,000. In addition, Claim 8 has been amended to replace the preamble "A compound" with --The crosslinkable oligomer or polymer-- to be consistent with Claim 7, from which Claim 8 depends. Claim 9 has been amended to recite the definition for R^1 , R^5 and n in the same manner as in Claim 7. No new matter has been added, and entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-15 are pending, of which Claims 1-6 and 10-15 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim 7 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

The Examiner asserts that Claim 7 is indefinite because Claim 7 recites "a crosslinkable oligomer or polymer" in the preamble. However, per the Examiner, if $x=1$ and $z=0$, the formula (Ic) would be a monomer or compound (and not oligomer or polymer).

Without conceding that the Examiner's statement is correct, Claim 7 has been amended to recite that z is a number from 1 to 10,000. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 112 rejection is respectfully requested.

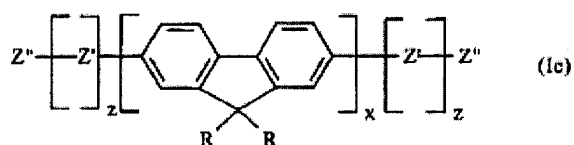
Claims 7-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Woo et al. (U.S. Pat. Nos. 6,169,163, or 6,255,449 or 6,362,310; all assigned to "THE DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY").

Applicants submit that this rejection should be withdrawn because Woo et al. does not disclose or render obvious the present claimed invention.

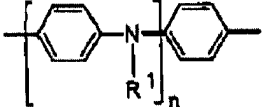
As an initial matter, Applicants note that U.S. Pat. Nos. 6,169,163, 6,255,449 and 6,362,310 are from same patent family and share the same specification. For easy reference, Applicants focus their discussion on U.S. Pat. No. 6,169,163 to Woo et al.

Claims 7 and 9 are independent claims.

Claim 7 as amended recites a crosslinkable oligomer or polymer of the formula (Ic):



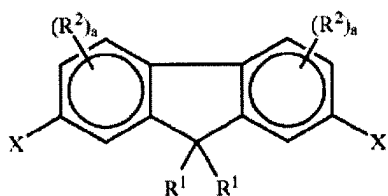
where R, independently each occurrence, is an inert substituent, a monovalent crosslink forming group, X, or a polyvalent crosslink forming group, X', with the proviso that in at least one repeat unit per molecule, at least one R is X or X'; x is a number from 1 to 10,000 and z is a number from 1 to 10,000 signifying the average number of repeat units in the composition; Z'' is

a monovalent chain terminating group; and Z' is  (i.e., the elected species as result of the restriction requirement), where R¹, independently each occurrence, is an inert substituent, X or X'; and n is 1 or 2.

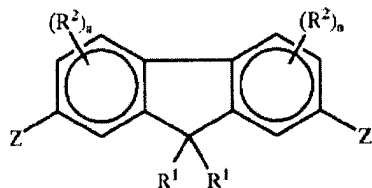
Claim 9 is directed to a cross-linked polymer having the same formula as Claim 7.

The Examiner contends that Woo et al. discloses the claimed crosslinkable polymer of formula (Ic) as recited in the present claims. Specifically, the Examiner refers to the formulae (I) and (II) of Woo (reproduced below) as examples (i.e., in formula (Ic), z=0). See Abstract of Woo.

(I)

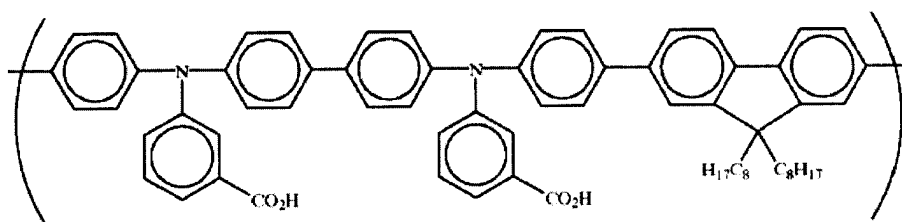


(II)



However, the claims have been amended to recite that z is a number from 1 to 10,000. Accordingly, the cited compounds of Woo et al. do not anticipate the present claims.

Further, the Examiner points to the compound disclosed in Woo at Cols. 43-44 (reproduced below) as assertedly meeting the structure requirement of the presently claimed crosslinkable polymer of formula (Ic), when the claimed $z > 0$, and in the elected species Z' , $n=1$, R^1 =aromatic group.



Applicants respectfully disagree.

The present claimed invention and the invention disclosed in Woo are different in groups R at position 9 of the fluorene rings thereof.

Specifically, the crosslinkable oligomer or polymer of the present claimed invention is characterized in that at least one of the groups R at position 9 of the fluorene ring thereof is a "crosslink forming group" or "crosslinked derivative of a crosslink forming group."

However, the polymer of Woo et al. cited by the Examiner and shown above has two $-C_8H_{17}$ groups at position 9 of the fluorene rings thereof, which groups are not crosslinkable groups. Woo does not teach or suggest a polymer having a crosslink forming group or a crosslinked derivative of a crosslink forming group at position 9 of the fluorene ring thereof.

Accordingly, the present claims are not anticipated by and define novel subject matter over Woo et al.

In view of the above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection based on Woo et al. are respectfully requested.

Allowance is respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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